

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9480

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7334

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 192947

1. THE IMPACT OF THE SAN JOSE RESULTS AND THE DECISION TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN PANAMA IS A HEFTY PLUS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. RABASA TOLD ME ON JULY 29 (MEXICO 6688) HOW PLEASED HE WAS WITH THE SAN JOSE MEETINGS AND WITH THE USDEL. SOME PUBLIC MEDIA COMMENTARY HAS BEEN WASPISH (E.G., SAN JOSE WAS A DEFEAT FOR THE U.S.) BUT, IN GENERAL, REACTION HERE HAS BEEN MOST FAVORABLE.

2. WITH BOTH ECHEVERRIA AND RABASA ABROAD, OFFICIAL REACTION THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON AMB. BUNKER'S RETURN TO PANAMA HAS BEEN, THUS FAR, NIL. PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE.

3. IN SHORT, THE NEGATIVE DRAG OF THESE TWO ISSUES ON BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS BEEN REMOVED, THOUGH RESUMED TALKS WITH PANAMA WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED HERE. ECHEVERRI'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CUBA MAY PRODUCE MIXED RESULTS, IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE CRITICISM OF THE U.S.. IT IS WORTH
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NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT ECHEVERRIA IN AN AMMAN PRESS CON-

REFERENCE LAST WEEK SAID U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS WERE NONE OF
HIS BUSINESS AND HE HAD NO INTENTION OF MEDDLING.
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